



May 19, 2021

Frederick County Sustainability Commission
Meeting Minutes



The meeting was held via WebEx.

Per current practice, the meeting is also streamed live on Facebook at Frederick County Sustainability Commission and made available via phone (1-855-925-2801, Code 9813) for listening.

Present: Chair: Elizabeth Law, Secretary: Mark Sankey, Kevin Sellner, Bill Steigelmann, Ron Kaltenbaugh, Jennifer Bird, John Ferri

Frederick County Council Liaison: Kai Hagen

OSER staff: Shannon Moore, Dawn Ashbacher, Jeremy Joiner, Linda Williamson

Guests/Public: John Dimitriou (Livable Frederick)

Opening:

The meeting was called to order at 3:00 pm by Betty Law and opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of Minutes

Jenn Bird served as Secretary for the April 21, 2021 Commission meeting. Mark Sankey asked for any discussion on the minutes of that meeting. Kevin Sellner requested a correction to his comments on CEMWG that the recommendation statements were due May 7. The correction has been made. With that correction, the minutes were approved by the Commissioners present at the April meeting, unanimously.

Creek ReLeaf – Discussion and Recommendations – All and OSER

Subcommittees presented recommendations. OSER support from Jeremy Joiner and Linda Williamson.

- Betty reviewed the program basis and objectives.
- The Commission questions from the April meeting have been addressed.
- Eight applicants have been recommended by OSER and have been reviewed by the Commission.
 - The applicants are all residential properties desiring to add forest land.
 - A total of 34 acres across the county are recommended for approval.
- Betty moved to approve the applicants and Bill seconded the motion.

- The motion was approved unanimously with Mark abstaining as absent in April.

Subcommittee Status Review – All

- South Frederick Corridor (SFC) - Update and Discussion - John, Kevin
 - John Dimitriou of the Livable Frederick Planning and Design Office was present to comment.
 - It was noted that Tiffany is a member of the SFC sub-committee.
 - John D. reviewed the methodology employed in the SFC plan. It is more informal and includes a greater degree of public involvement than previous initiatives.
 - As mentioned previously, a design charette providing a focused discussion of the plan has been held. The group report is to be finalized in mid-June, sent to the County Planning Commission for an official public review process, and after approval, forwarded on to the County Council for another round of public review. Final result is consideration of and potential changes to zoning in the area studied.
 - John Ferri expressed concern that the SFC plan is targeted for 2050 but the Livable Frederick plan (LF) does not have time-defined, concrete actions. This constitutes a conflict and should be recognized and addressed. John D. acknowledged the point.
 - Kevin commented that SFC plan is tied to LF and represents the first of 8 areas to be considered for development. John D. clarified the history of county development plans. While 8 distinct areas were defined in the past the LF process employs a more flexible perspective in defining areas for focus. SFC is an example of this approach.
 - Bill asked about regional plan coordination with LF and John D. responded that such coordination is intended.
 - John F. confirmed community involvement in the SFC plan process.
- Other Subcommittee Updates
 - Sustainability Awards - Betty, Jenn, Dawn
 - Betty has emailed former nominees regarding interest in applying for this round. She noted Middletown's strength as a candidate.
 - Dawn summarized outreach including a press release and that applications have been received.
 - Green Resources Energy Action Team (GREAT)
 - Subcommittee members are: Bill (point person), Ron, Faith, and John.
 - Bill agreed to organize a meeting of GREAT.

- While Mark has interest to join it was later acknowledged that membership must be limited to 4 as total Commission membership will reduce to 9 with Kevin's term ending.
- An update to the Myersville initiatives will be will be made.
- Sugarloaf Mt Corridor - Mark

Release of the plan remains on hold. Reasons for such are unknown.

Election of Executive Committee – 2021-2022

Election to be held at July Meeting.

- Betty reviewed Section 2 of the bylaws which indicate the Vice-Chair is to become the Chair. It also allows for resignation of any officer at any time.
- Faith prefers to continue as Vice-Chair and suggests John Ferri serve a full term as Chair. His term was interrupted by policies addressing Covid.
- John expressed his agreement to serve as suggested.
- It was concluded that the Commission can allow for the suggested nominations for officers for the coming year.
- Mark has expressed interest to continue as Secretary.

New Committee Member Orientation - All

Welcome Tiffany Fossett.

- Betty has provided informal orientation to Tiffany.
- It was acknowledged that a more formal process should be considered for the future..

OSER Update – Shannon Moore and Dawn Ashbacher

- Shannon announced Kim Campbell of the OSER staff has been named Project Manager. Responsibilities include hot spot investigations, and identifying illicit discharges.
- OSER seeks to hire for an Engineering Technology position responsible for mapping and related data documentation.
- Shannon has presentations scheduled for the Chesapeake Bay Local Leadership Work Group and the American Council of Engineering Companies (ACEC). She is also involved with MWCOG meetings and development of educational materials. A Chesapeake Bay Awareness Day is scheduled for June.
- This time of year sees capital projects proceeding and OSER budgets have been approved for same.

- The County has a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (MWCOG) to receive assistance on Climate and Energy Planning, including a fleet transition plan.
- Dawn reported on a DOE tool which provides local Low-Income Energy Affordability Data (LEAD).
- Dawn co-wrote an article for the International City/County Management Association (ICMA) about applying an equity lens to sustainability.
- Dawn requests help in promoting the regional solar coop and will send out more info to Commissioners to share.

Commissioner Interest

- John said he would forward a notice for an upcoming conference for climate change professionals.
- Ron mentioned work with CEMWG spurred opportunities for city and county cooperation for supporting EVs.
- Betty continues efforts related to the road routing through Fort Detrick area B. She is supporting candidates who support re-route.
- Mark noted that Tiffany Fossett should be added to the member listing on the monthly meeting agenda. The potential for future meetings to be face-to-face or hybrid as the County may allow needs to be on the agenda. He offered thanks to Kevin for his varied and significant service on environmental issues.
- Kevin reviewed CEMWG status. The report and recommendations are nearing the finish line. The group had a productive and encouraging discussion with municipality executives. Natural resources were a focus. A city plan related to climate change for 2020 has been approved. Kevin offered thanks to all the Commission members, and to Shannon and Dawn, for our efforts.
- Bill mentioned that a grant from MEA was received for the microgrid study for the Jefferson Ruritan facility. Congratulations!

Public Comment

2 minute limit per person

No public attendance or comments.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:50 pm.